



Lord's Prayer (5): *Give us today our daily bread*

Q. 193. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

A. In the fourth petition (which is, *Give us this day our daily bread*), acknowledging that in Adam, and by our own sin, we have forfeited our right to all the outward blessings of this life, and deserve to be wholly deprived of them by God, and to have them cursed to us in the use of them; and that neither they of themselves are able to sustain us, nor we to merit, or by our own industry to procure them; but prone to desire, get, and use them unlawfully: we pray for ourselves and others, that both they and we, waiting upon the providence of God from day to day in the use of lawful means, may, of his free gift, and as to his fatherly wisdom shall seem best, enjoy a competent portion of them; and have the same continued and blessed unto us in our holy and comfortable use of them, and contentment in them; and be kept from all things that are contrary to our temporal support and comfort.

1. Give us...

Deuteronomy 6:10-15

What did Moses warn the people of Israel about?

Daniel 4:28-32

What was Nebuchadnezzar's mistake?

This is the 'mundane' line of the Lord's prayer. Praying about bread! Surely there are more important things to bring to God's attention!

Jesus' point is that *the basic things we need for life come only by God's grace – so we must pray for them.*

2. The problem with paganism

Jeremiah 44:15-18

How do these men (and their wives) think the universe 'works'?

How does the universe in fact 'work'?

How does each of these three 'worldviews' think we get our daily bread?

Materialism (= atheism, there is nothing but matter)

Christianity

Paganism

Which two have most in common?

Matthew 5:43-48 Why loving your enemies makes us sons of God...

3. More about prayer

What does it take for a slice of bread to end up in your toaster? How many things need to happen?

God's control and prayer...

Matthew 10:29; Ephesians 1:11; Matthew 7:7-11

'But, if God is in control of all things, that means he knows the future. So why do we need to pray?'

	God is in control of human decisions	God is not in control of human decisions
Does God know the future?		
Does God control the future?		
Can I ask God to change what happens in the future?		
Can I ask God to do things which depend on other people's decisions?		
Can I ask God to give me my daily bread?		

God is sovereign over all things...

That's why we pray to him

We are responsible for our decisions – they are *real* decisions

Our prayers are part of his sovereign plan

4. The twin dangers: pride and presumption

Luke 12:16-21

Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4)...

So when we pray 'Give us our daily bread' we are praying

- That God will give us what we need
- That God will so organise and control all the millions of things that need to be in place for us to continue to live
- That God will humble us from believing that we are in control of this world and our lives
- That God will not let us be proud of our achievements
- That God will not let us presume on his kindness
- That God will make us content with what he chooses to give us.
- That we trust that God loves us and delights to do things because we pray

If God knows the future, then there's no real point praying.

God helps those who help themselves.

I've prayed about my [insert nasty disease], so I don't need to go to the doctor.

When we can't get things we need for ourselves, that's when we need to start trusting God for them.

God never answers my prayers.